UNIQUE SPANISH ARMADA MANIFESTO OF 1597.

A DECLARATION of The Just Causes Mooving Her Maiestie to send a Navie, and Armie to the Seas, and toward Spaine. Imprinted at London, by the Deputies of Christopher Barker...1597.

FIRST EDITION

4to. half morocco.

Not recorded in Short Title Catalogue and apparently unique. Incensed by the capture of Cadix by the 1596 expedition Philip II determined to attack England again. He began the assembly of a new Armada at Ferroll. The present manifesto announces an expedition under the sole command of Essex (Raleigh was in support though not mentioned) to forestal the Ferroll navy.

The fleet sailed in July, 1597, but was scattered by a storm and forced to return. After refitting the expedition reached Ferroll but unfit to attack the Spanish fleet. Sailing on to the Azores, Raleigh achieved a personal triumph by capturing a town. The Ferroll fleet sailed for England but was prevented by storms from attacking the coast.

The manifesto emphasises that "Her Maiestie would have it understood for a very trueth, that she is mooued hereunto, onely for defence of the State of her owne kingdomes, and people, against the apparent preparations of great forces, put in readinesse by the King of Spaine, to offend her Maiestie sundry wayes, and specially to invade her Realme of Ireland."

There is apparently no other contemporary text of this manisfesto. It was never issued as a proclamation.

A DECLARATION OF THE IVST CAVSES MOOVING HER *Maiestie to send a Navie, and Armie to the Seas, and toward Spaine.*

Imprinted at London, by the Deputies of Christopher Barker, Printer to the *Queenes most excellent Maiestie.*

Anno Dom. 1597.

HONI SOIT QVI MAL Y PENSE
DIEV ET MON DROIT

A Declaration of the iuſt causes mooving the Queenes Maieſtie to ſend a Nauie, and Armie to the Seas, and towards Spaine.

ALthough the Queenes Maieſtie as a Soueraigne Prince, and Queene, is not (for respect of any person) bounde to make accompte, or declare to the world the causes for iuſtification of any her publike actions: yet leaſt any ſiniſter, or doubtfull interpretation ſhould be made, by the diuerſitie of opinions, either of Strangers, or of her owne naturall

subiects, of her present preparations of a Nauy, and an Army, nowe committed to the Earle of Essex, as her Generall, with diuers Noble men, and other persons of credite and reputation, to serue with him both by Sea and Land: Her Maiestie would haue it vnderstood for a very trueth, that shee is mooued hereunto, onely for defence of the State of her owne kingdomes, and people, against the apparant preparations of great forces, put in readinesse by the King of Spaine, to offend her Maiestie sundry wayes, and specially to inuade her Realme of Ireland. In which desseigne he was so farre proceeded in the beginning of this last winter, that he had awalled together as great a number of Shipps to serue in the said action, as he could furnish from all partes of his Dominions, or could recouer, by imbarging all other Shipps of seruice, which came for trade into Spaine or Portugall. And yet such was the prouidence of God, contrary to that Kings hope, and intention, (by hastning of his Enterprise in a time vnlooked for) to surprise some place in England or Ireland, before her Maiestie could haue had her owne force in readinesse, shee still prouiding (but that shee is dayly prouoked) to haue liued in Peace, which shee professeth to wish both to her selfe, and all Christendome, as it pleased him who from Hea-

uen

men with Iustice beholdeth all mens purpo-
ses, condemning the tyrannous disturbers
of the worlde, and comforting such as for
Peace withstand violence) suddenly and most
strangely to drowne and make vnseruiceable
diuers of his best Ships of warre, being vn-
der sayle comming from Lisbone, and very
neere to the destined Hauen of Ferroll, with
destruction of no small numbers of souldiers
and Mariners. Amongst which, many of
those Irish Rebels of all sortes of professions
both tituler Bishops, and other Irish people,
that were entertained in Spaine, to haue ac-
companied either that Naule or some part
thereof into Ireland, were also cast away. By
which manifest acte of Almighty God, that
Armie was so weakened, as the same coulde
not put to the Seas, according to his former
desseigne: and yet neuertheleſſe, as it mani-
festly hath appeared, the King of Spaine not
being warned by this iust punishment by
Gods ordinance, without reſistance by any
outward force, but forgetting howe by the
fauour of Almighty God, his proud Naule in
the yeere eightie eight, was ouerthrowen by
our forces, and notwithstanding his losse
at Cales by her Maiesties Armie, which thee
was in like sort constrained for her safetie to
defeate, (all being but the preparatiues to
some dangerous action against her) such is

ſtill his malice, (although he finde that both by God and man he is impeached in his iuſt pretences,) as he hath haſtened to make all maner of new preparations of Shipping, and of men and victuall, and munitions, greater then all Spaine and Portugall coulde yeeld, & therefore hath ſent into Italie, and to the Eaſt Countreyes for all things neceſſarie to repaire his Armie at Ferroll, to purſue his former purpoſe, and in the meane time hath ſent certaine Captaines in ſundry ſmall Veſſels, with a remnant of ſome Iriſh Fugitiues into Ireland, to animate the Rebels to be obſtinate in their Rebellion, vntill hee might ſend them ſuccours, not onely feeding the Principals with hope of vaine Titles, and Dignities, but plainely auowing the vſurpation of the whole Realme for himſelfe, to the depriuation of her Maieſties Crowne and State of that Kingdome, a matter ſo farre knowen, and prooued, as beſides that, it is moſt notorious, that his Army was in October laſt on the high way towards their iourney, the Capitall Traytour Tyrone himſelfe, hath ſent to her Gouernour of that Realme, a letter ſigned with the King of Spaines owne name, to the purpoſes aforeſaide. Nowe then that theſe the King of Spaines actions and purpoſes, are manifeſtly knowen, & the reparation of his Nauy dayly

laboured,

laboured, and an Army newly leuyed, with all necessaries of victuall and Munition, brought to Ferroll fit for such an enterprise, so as his sending to the Seas (assoone as those difficulties are ouercome) is dayly expected, and so publikely diuulged without giuing colour for any other purpose. And seeing her Maiestie doeth finde the Rebels in Ireland persist still in generall expectation to be relieued with a Spanish Naue: Her Maiestie of her Princely prouidence for the safetie of both her Kingdomes, doth appeale to all the world whether shee be not necessarily inforced, to send out this Army to the Seas, to resist & diuert all Acts of Hostilitie which that Army of Spaine, might nowe this Sommer time attempt against either of her realmes of England or Ireland, her Nauy being compounded of a competent number of her Maiesties owne Shippes of warre without burdening of her Subiects for seruice with their Port ships (as in former times) but retaining the Admirall of her Kingdome in readines with the rest of her Royall Shippes, to withstand all other accidents that might appeare dangerous in these parts neere her. To all which courses her excellent Maiestie being thus prouoked, this her purpose may and ought not onely to be allowed, but fauoured, & furthered by all Christian Princes, States, and

people, the same being so affected generally by her owne Subiects as they is fully moued to denie the suites of great numbers of her Nobilitie & valiant Gentlemen, who hauing importuned her for leaue to serue as voluntaries in this voyage, shee hath stayed great part of them to doe her seruice at home. And therefore little doubteth, but by continuance of Gods fauour (whereof shee hath by sundry speciall and notable blessings had singular demonstration) to preserue her Kingdomes by her forces, thus timely prouided, and shadowed vnder the fauour of Almighty God, who hath hitherto, and will hereafter see these Spanish, proude, and vniust attempts, made frustrate, whereby the King may by the chastisement of the Almightie God of Hostes, bee induced to liue in peace with his neighbours, which all iust Princes propound for an ende of all their Martiall actions.